

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 4**

#### **Summer Announcement # 3, Districts 1, 2, and 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedules**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The 2012 Yukon River Chinook salmon run is anticipated to be poor to below average and conservation measures will be necessary to share the available subsistence harvest. In recent years, implementation of the regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule has been delayed until the early part of June to provide additional subsistence opportunity prior to enacting closures to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon. Unfortunately, in response to the continued trend of poor to below average runs, it is necessary to conserve this early portion of the Chinook salmon run to meet escapement, share any available subsistence surplus fish, and help rebuild these stocks for the future generations. Based on input provided by subsistence fisherman at meetings throughout the winter and spring, the schedule will be implemented earlier than recent years, but similar to the timeline used prior to 2009.

Subsistence salmon fishing in Yukon River Districts 1, 2, and 3 is currently open seven days a week until the regulatory schedule becomes effective. Once the schedule becomes effective, subsistence salmon fishing will consist of two 36-hour periods each week.

**District 1:** Subsistence salmon fishing will close at 8:00 am Saturday, June 2 and then be open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Mondays until 8:00 a.m. Wednesdays and from 8:00 p.m. Thursdays until 8:00 a.m. Saturdays.

**District 2:** Subsistence salmon fishing will close at 8:00 am Tuesday, June 5 and then be open

for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 8:00 a.m. Fridays and from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays.

**District 3:** Subsistence salmon fishing will close at 8:00 am Friday, June 8 and then be open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays and from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 8:00 a.m. Fridays.

**Coastal District:** Subsistence salmon fishing is open seven days a week.

**Innoko River:** Subsistence salmon fishing is open seven days a week.

During the subsistence salmon fishing closures, all gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

As a reminder, in 2011 both the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a regulation that fishermen in Districts 1-6 and the Coastal District may not take salmon using gillnets with mesh size larger than 7.5 inches.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game seasonal office in Emmonak will open for the 2012 season on June 4. Office hours will be Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the office will be closed on Sunday. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Emmonak seasonal office will open June 4 with the same office hours.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 949-1798. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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